



CASE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Kevin J. Martin

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

November 2, 2007

Re: Alfred Mann Foundation Petition for Rulemaking RM-11404

Department of Biomedical Engineering
Neural Engineering Center

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Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Alfred Mann Foundation's ("AMF") request for a rulemaking to facilitate deployment of new wideband medical micropower network service ("MMNS") devices that will dramatically improve the lives of patients suffering from paralysis and other neuromuscular disorders. As a person with a long history of developing devices to treat paralysis through electrically activating the nervous system, I have first-hand knowledge of the severe impact that paralysis has upon the physical and emotional well-being of patients and their families. I also am well aware of the limitations of the available medical treatment options and of the currently unfulfilled need for wireless, implantable miniature devices that can rehabilitate paralyzed limbs and organs.

Devices that provide functional electric stimulation and sensing ("FESS") are a proven means of restoring sensation, mobility, and other functions to paralyzed limbs and organs. For various reasons, however, commercially available FESS devices are limited in their effectiveness and are unappealing to many patients. Existing implantable FESS devices typically require highly invasive surgery and increase the risk of infection. Other FESS devices that can be placed on the skin (rather than implanted) are not as effective because the electrodes cannot be placed directly on the neural sites. These devices also can be painful for some patients and require patients to seek assistance from others to attach or remove the devices.

In response to the Commission's notice of inquiry in ET Docket No. 06-135, I previously filed comments supporting AMF's request for a rulemaking and reiterate that support here. I firmly believe that the MMNS equipment that AMF is developing represents a leap in FESS technology and in the medical treatment and care of people living with paralysis. In view of the significant health benefits, the Commission should adopt rules facilitating the development and deployment of new and innovative MMNS equipment. Moreover, because of the length of time required to complete the regulatory process, it is critical that the Commission commence the necessary rulemaking proceeding as soon as possible. The sooner the Commission can initiate the process the sooner patients can begin to realize the extraordinary benefits of this groundbreaking technology.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Mortimer, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Engineering

cc: Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 2, 2007, a copy of the foregoing Letter was served by electronic mail upon the following:

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Counsel to the Alfred Mann Foundation

/s/ J. Thomas Mortimer, Ph.D.
J. Thomas Mortimer, Ph.D.